GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
DUAL CITIZENSHIP
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee headed by Shri L.M. Singhvi on `dual citizenship` has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in the report and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to grant dual citizenship to the persons of Indian Origin/NRIs residing in certain countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria fixed for the same; and

(e) the details of facilities/rights proposed to be given to the persons holding dual citizenship?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The High Level Committee had been set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP to formulate appropriate policies for deepening linkages with all NRIs and overseas Indians.The Committee in its report has, inter alia, dealt with the issue of dual citizenship.

(b) The Committee has recommended
(i) Celebration of 9th January every year as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas,
(ii) Institution of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award and
(iii) Revision of the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme. All these three recommendations have been accepted.

Among the Committee`s other main recommendation are: grant of dual citizenship to foreign citizens of Indian descent residing in certain countries, engaging Indian Diaspora in the fields of Culture, Education, Health, Media, Science & Technology, Economic Development, Philanthropy etc. in order to enhance their connectivity with India, improvement of facilities at the airports, problems of overseas Indian labour etc.

The relevant recommendations have been sent to the concerned Departments/Organisations for their inputs/examination.

(c) No decision about grant of dual citizenship has been taken as yet.

(d)& (e) does not arise.